

THE

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COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

Rejection of Assemblyman John Dunlap's mountain lion protection bill (A.B. 660) by the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife, after passage by the Assembly, was a bitter pill for thousands of conservationists. Testimony offered by Dr. Starker Leopold, eminent authority on wildlife management and conservation at the University of California, recommended such action by the committee.

Your Conservation Chairman talked to Dr. Leopold about his stand and has since received liberal amounts of written material on the subject. Leopold is as determined as other conservationists to preserve our lions but insists that the Department of Fish and Game must be actively involved in their management and protection. He felt that A.B. 660 bypassed this department, which should exercise leadership in such matters. "Fish and Game" has already set a ceiling of 50 for annual lion kill. We wonder who would stop this "take" once 50 lions had been bagged.

Two years ago Dr. Leopold met with federal, Audubon, and National Wildlife Federation officials to discuss possible federal measures that would provide funds to the states for research on non-game animals.

In discussing the lion bill recently, columnist Ed Salzman, Sacramento watchdog for the *Oakland Tribune*, called for a renaming of "Fish and Game" to the "department of wildlife or something along that line." (Why not "Department of Conservation," a title used elsewhere?) Salzman continues: "This renamed department should then be charged with management of all animal species for both hunting and conservation purposes. And all Californians — not just those who buy hunting and fishing licenses — should help pay the bill. It is a sad commentary on our system when the best way to protect a species is to guarantee that at least a limited number of animals can be shot each year."

Supporters of the proposed San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge have found fresh hope and encouragement since a mid-May meeting in Washington, attended by Ohlone Auduboners Bill Hurd and John Luther, biologist Tom Harvey of San Jose State, Dr. Will Siri of the Sierra Club and Save the Bay, Joe Bodovitz of BCDC, Steve Steinhour of Nature Conservancy, Bob Lassen of Fish and Game, and federal officials. Senator Alan Cranston told the delegation that he would enter a companion bill (to H.R. 111) in the Senate, co-sponsored by Senator John Tunney. The long-delayed Bureau of Outdoor Recreation survey report appears soon to be released.

Meanwhile, your Chairman attended a San Francisco meeting with Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton on May 25th. Secretary Morton, a likeable and matter-of-fact sort of official, expressed complete confidence in our eventual acquisition of the South Bay Refuge. He thought that its importance for wildlife preservation even surpassed its recreational values. He declined, however, to predict whether Congress would pass the refuge bill this session.

Secretary Morton also pledged a very comprehensive plan for a Golden Gate National Recreation Area, which would probably include lands from around the Golden Gate northward to Pt. Reyes Seashore. He took time to needle some of his critics who flew by jet to Washington (air pollution) and wrote on paper that was not recycled.

Defenders of Wildlife News, Spring 1971 issue, carries more hair-raising revelations on Compound 1080 poisoning campaigns by the Division of Wildlife Services, U.S. Department of the Interior. This issue focuses on operations in Lassen County, where, according to investigator Justin Murray of Petaluma, upwards of \$10,000 is spent yearly to "protect" some 5,780 sheep — and where there is little evidence of depredation by coyotes. With hundreds of coyotes poisoned, it becomes necessary to broadcast more poison to control various rodents! —PAUL F. COVEL, *Cons. Chairman*.

"PROGRESS" IN SAN LEANDRO BAY

Golden Gate Audubon members recently combined with members of other conservation groups to support Elsie Roemer's efforts to combat the Port of Oakland's intrusion on a wildlife refuge in San Leandro Bay. By mutual agreement between the Port and BCDC, the arrow-shaped peninsula jutting into the Bay was designated early in February as such a refuge. Late in May, when Mrs. Roemer found new rubble intruding into the marsh, she protested to BCDC. Her efforts culminated in a KQED broadcast on June 7 (repeated on the 8th). George Duscheck reported that a Port official had conceded "inadvertent" new fill and agreed to see that it would be removed. Questions now: What will be removed, and where will it be taken?

Watch developments. Drive in from Doolittle Road or from Hegenberger Road (use the street beside the Labor Union building, which has a distinctive roof). Drive in to see the destruction of an unexcelled wildlife habitat. Get acquainted with San Leandro Creek. Army engineers may be on the verge of destroying that habitat. Your letters can help.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SHOREBIRD SURVEY

The California Department of Fish and Game needs volunteers for a semi-monthly shorebird census at Alameda, Albany, and Emeryville from July 1971 through June 1972. If you can help, please notify Mr. Ronald M. Jurek, Jr. Wildlife Manager-Biologist, Dept. of Fish and Game, 1416 Ninth St., Sacramento, CA 95814. Preservation of shorebird habitat could depend upon the facts provided by the survey. The Department has published the results of the 1969-70 California Shorebird Survey.

OBSERVATIONS

A Farallon Island pelagic trip on May 9 was a memorable day for 49 Audubonites and 2 Eastern visitors. The Pacific, usually not pacific in this region, was as smooth as glass, enabling us to observe pelagic life in a way very few birders have ever experienced. At the main Southeast Farallon Island we enjoyed many highlights, including 8 *Tufted Puffins*. While circling the islands we had excellent views of Gray Whales surfacing, blowing, and diving on their migration north with their calves. When the skipper shut off the motor at Fanny Shoals, we had the unusual experience of being surrounded by pelagic voices, including over a thousand *Cassin's Auklets*. In the wake of the drifting boat we had 17 *Black-footed Albatross*. Some of them were just 5 feet off the bow, and we heard their plaintive whistles and deep groans. With pelagic life endangered by pollution, we wondered how much longer we'll be able to enjoy such spectacles. —VAL DaCOSTA

A WHITE IBIS was observed on Bolinas Lagoon across from Audubon Canyon Ranch by Jon Winter of Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory on May 14. Val DaCosta reported it to The Gull on May 15 (apparently the first record for Northern California). It had adult white plumage, black wing tips, red legs, red face and pinkish bill, and it was feeding with the egrets and herons through May 18.

Seven *Black Brant* at Princeton, San Mateo County coast, on May 22, a late date — Val & Bob DaCosta.

A *Blue-winged Teal* in Palo Alto marsh south of the yacht harbor on May 4 — Garth Alton. A *Blue-winged Teal* was still in Coyote Hills Regional Park on May 9 — John & Ann Hollis.

A pair of *Wood Ducks* was still in Sunol Valley Regional Park on May 4 — Elsie Roemer.

A pair of *Golden Eagles* had 2 downy white eaglets in a power tower nest in central California on April 24. On May 16 the nestlings had their dark and mottled plumage. This nest is in a different location from the one photographed in a power tower in Merced County last year. The exact location should not be revealed until the young eaglets have left the area. (Four men with guns were in the vicinity on May 16.)

An Osprey at Bolinas Lagoon and over Alpine Dam, Marin County on May 18.

Mountain Quail in Sugarloaf Ridge State Park, Sonoma County, in April and May.

A *Virginia Rail* in the marsh on St. Mary's College campus, May 4.

Two *Wandering Tattlers* (1 in breeding plumage) at Princeton, May 22 — Val & Bob DaCosta.

Six *Northern Phalaropes* in marsh area of San Leandro Bay, May 22 — Elsie Roemer. On May 20 a flock of *Northern Phalaropes* was on the pond at Pt. Reyes Station — Bob Conrath.

A flock of about 25 *Least Terns* at Alameda South Shore between Broadway and Park St., on May 6 — Elsie Roemer & Thaire Adamson.

Three *Marbled Murrelets* in breeding plumage at Princeton, San Mateo County coast, May 22 — Val & Bob DaCosta.

Saw-whet Owls were reported in Redwood Regional Park, Oakland, in April and May by Scott Terrill, Dick Erickson and Dr. Joe Greenberg.

Calliope Hummingbirds were observed in Laurel Canyon, Tilden Park, during the April 29th field trip led by Jane Dang and Trix Machlis.

Behavior observation — *Wrentit* eating moistened dog biscuits in Oakland backyard in May — VH.

Solitary Vireo nesting near St. Mary's College campus on May 14 — Garth Alton. A *Solitary Vireo* was foraging and singing in Montclair yard in Oakland hills on May 29.

A male *Black-throated Blue Warbler* on Stage Road north of Pescadero, San Mateo County, May 22 — Val & Bob DaCosta.

A *Tennessee Warbler* at Rodeo Lagoon, May 20 — Val & Bob DaCosta.

In one small campground on Mt. Diablo on May 13 Val and Bob DaCosta found the following warblers: a *Black-and-White*, 6 *Hermit*, a *Black-throated Gray*, a *Townsend's*, an *Orange-crowned*, a *Wilson's* and several *Yellow*.

Three species of warblers (all singing) on Big Springs Trail, Tilden Park, on May 4; a *Nashville*, a *Hermit* and a *Townsend's* — Garth Alton.

Four *MacGillivray's Warblers* in Redwood Regional Park on May 20.

A *Yellow-breasted Chat* in the willows near St. Mary's College campus, Moraga, on May 4 — Bill Pursell.

Hermit and *Black-throated Gray Warblers* on Mt. Tamalpais, May 30 — Val & Bob DaCosta.

Western Tanager migration dates: May 2, a male was in Tilden Park on the nature trail above Jewel Lake — Eugenia Hull. May 4, a male near Alameda Creek, Sunol Valley Reg. Park — Elsie Roemer. May 9, a male in Berkeley garden — Barbara Harrison. May 13, a male on Mt. Diablo. May 17, 2 males in a bottle-brush plant in Redwood City garden — Richard & Norma Bambach. May 22, a male singing near St. Mary's College campus — Garth Alton. Also May 22, a singing male in Oakland hilltop garden — Mr. & Mrs. Milward Harris and a male and female in Montclair garden, Oakland — VH. May 30, a male foraging in oaks and singing near St. Mary's College. (In May 1969 a pair of *Western Tanagers* nested at St. Mary's campus.) June 1, a male *Western Tanager* in Alum Rock Park, San Jose — Larry Curl.

A pair of *Lawrence's Goldfinches* in Sugarloaf Ridge State Park, Sonoma County, May 25 — Elsie Roemer. Four *Lawrence's Goldfinches* on Welch Creek Rd., Sunol Valley Reg. Park, May 26 — Garth Alton.

Grasshopper Sparrows in mid-May near southeastern section of Bolinger Canyon Rd. (off Crow Canyon Rd. in Contra Costa County) — Larry Curl. *Grasshopper Sparrows* near San Gregorio, San Mateo County, May 22 — Val & Bob DaCosta.

Black-chinned Sparrows on Mt. Diablo, May 13, GGAS trip led by Larry Curl. Also observed there on June 3.

Tips for new members:—In mid-July and August watch for shorebirds returning from northern nesting areas. Some will still have breeding plumage in July. Northern and Wilson's Phalaropes, early migrants, can be seen near KGO tower in the Dumbarton Bridge area of South San Francisco Bay.

Every year many Cliff Swallow nests on buildings are destroyed by the property owners. We'd like to design a simple structure that communities could erect as substitute nest sites for these insectivorous birds.

VI HOMEM, *Observations Editor* (339-1886).

FIELD TRIPS FOR JULY

Wed. July 7—To Redwood Regional Park in the hills behind Oakland. Exit from the MacArthur Freeway onto 35th Ave. Follow 35th Ave. uphill (it soon becomes Redwood Road), cross over Highway 13, and then go down Redwood Road about 2 miles to the MacDonald Trail Parking Lot. Meet at **9 a.m.** Bring lunch. Leader, Vi Homem.

Sat.-Sun. July 24-25—To the California Alpine Club Lodge at Echo Summit to see birds of the High Sierra. We should see Blue Grouse, Green-tailed Towhees, and the beautiful Mountain Bluebird. Take Highway 50 via Placerville to the Echo Lake sign at the top of the grade, turn left there onto the paved road, and follow it for about a mile to the lodge. (Do not make a second left turn to Echo Lake.) Campers may stay at the Firs Public Campground, which is reached shortly after making the left turn. Greyhound Bus service is available to Little Norway; transportation from there to the lodge will be provided if you notify the trip organizer ahead of time.

Lodging for Friday and Saturday nights and five meals will cost from \$10 to \$11 per person. Make reservations with Pat Triggs; include a \$5 deposit, state time of arrival and departure, and whether you want a single room or a dormitory. Bring sleeping bag or bedding and a knapsack. Make reservations for the lodge early, as space is limited. **Deadline, July 15.**

Field trips will start both days from the lodge at **9 a.m.** On Saturday we will go to Tamarack Lake (a boat trip across the lake will cost \$1.80 round trip). On Sunday we go to Benwood Meadow. Organizer, Pat Triggs, 2038 33rd Ave., San Francisco 94116 (664-8502).

Sat. July 31—A trip down the South Peninsula coast, covering a wide variety of habitats. We should see Murres, Purple Martins, Black Swifts, and perhaps migrating Shearwaters. Meet at **9 a.m.** at the Municipal Pier Parking Lot in Princeton on Half Moon Bay. Leader, Ted Chandik (851-0354). —PAT TRIGGS, *Field Trips Chairman*.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Mt. Diablo. Low clouds and fog alternated with sunshine on Mt. Diablo for the overnight campout and field trip on May 8 and 9. Twenty people camped out and 30 showed up for the hikes. Quality rather than quantity was the order of the trip, with good views of Rufous-crowned Sparrows and Hermit Warblers in breeding plumage leading the list.

Black-throated Gray and Townsend's Warblers, Nuttall's Woodpeckers, Anna's Hummingbirds, California Thrashers, and a daylight sighting of a Great Horned Owl added interest. Plain Titmice were to be found everywhere. In the evening a Great Horned Owl was seen and a Screech Owl was heard. Spring flowers were still in bloom, and everyone was treated to Paul Covel's special brand of identification, mixed with little-known facts and anecdotes about each flower and bush that aroused curiosity.

—RAY HIGGS, *Leader*.

Jack London Ranch. Sixty-five enthusiastic birders, including regulars and newcomers, spent the morning of May 15 identifying, by voice and sight, the birds associated with riparian habitat. The Yellow-breasted Chats, although more often heard than seen, were the delight of everyone. In the afternoon, Marianne and Susan Shepard were our hostesses and guides on their lovely ranch, where a Red-shouldered Hawk and its young were closely observed. A Pileated Woodpecker was also observed by several in the group. —VALERIA G. DACOSTA, *Leader*.

Al Wool Ranch. Fifty Golden Gate members and about twenty from Santa Clara turned out for the trip to the Al Wool Ranch on May 23. In the morning our host escorted us along several wooded trails, where we saw Lazuli Buntings, Pine Siskins, Lesser and American Goldfinches Hairy, Downy, and Acorn Woodpeckers, Wilson's and Orange-crowned Warblers, Western, Ash-throated, and Olive-sided Flycatchers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Purple Finches, and circling overhead, a Cooper's Hawk.

In the afternoon we were allowed to wander at will over the lovely green hillsides, where in addition to the beautiful view, we saw Savannah Sparrows, Band-tailed Pigeons, and one Western Bluebird. We saw a total of 42 species. —PAT TRIGGS, *Field Trips Chairman*.

OREGON STATE BIRD LIST

It has been thirty years since an official list of birds of Oregon has been published. In that time considerable change has taken place in the state. Gerald A. Bartand and Michael Scott of the Museum of Natural History at Oregon State University have recently published an up-to-date "Check-list of the Birds of Oregon." Available in booklet form, the check-list contains references to status, abundance, preferred habitat, and the section of the state in which species may be found. It is printed on tear-proof, smudge-resistant paper, and can be obtained from Audubon House or the Oregon State University Book Store (Corvallis) at a cost of 65¢. A special discount can be arranged for bulk orders.

TO MABEL WHITMORE, A DEAR FRIEND

Mabel Whitmore was a loyal and devoted friend of the National Audubon Society from the day she arrived at the Audubon Camp of Maine, in its first year, and came under the guidance of its inspired Director, Carl Buchheister. In Carl, Mabel found a person who had beliefs and visions that people *were* good; that people worked toward and for their beliefs. It was a friendship that was to last through all the years and to convince Mabel that the camps of the National Audubon Society

offered those inherent faiths and trusts that no other similar experience could duplicate.

From the mid-thirties Mabel gave of herself and her resources to provide innumerable scholarships to Audubon Camps. Some of her selection; others the selection of the Camp Director.

I met Mabel at my first National Audubon Convention in 1953, when as always, it was held in New York City. Perhaps because I represented the new era of Audubon explorations in the West, or perhaps because I too was born in England, a rapport and friendship were born at our first meeting. We were quite formal at first, in the British manner, but gradually the years, time, and an ultimate experience at the Audubon Camp of California placed us on a footing of deeply respected friendship. I encouraged Mabel to "come West" when her ties with the East were lessening. I am glad I did, for, happily, she formed new friendships. She devoted herself to the emerging growth of a Western orientated Audubon Society which, for those who know, is quite different from its Eastern counterpart. Both at our Western Asilomar Conferences and at the Western Office on Bancroft Way, Berkeley, Mabel as she could not otherwise be, became a landmark of Audubon faith, belief, and service. —BILL GOODALL.

IN MEMORIAM: LAURA STEPHENS

We recently received the sad news of the death of Laura A. Stephens in January. Mrs. Stephens was editor of *The Gull* from 1929 to 1942, and when she retired from this volunteer job *The Gull* published a tribute to her written by Mrs. Enid K. Austin, Vice President:

"With the February issue of *The Gull* Mrs. Stephens relinquished her editorship, thereby closing twelve years of untiring effort in our behalf. One hundred forty-four issues of a publication is an exacting task for anyone, especially when a certain standard is maintained. . . ."

Laura Stephens also held the office of Treasurer during the same twelve years. In 1933 she was co-author with Miss Cornelia C. Pringle of "Birds of Marin County," published by the Audubon Association of the Pacific (predecessor of Golden Gate Audubon Society).

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Gifts of remembrance were made to *Audubon Canyon Ranch*:

In Memory of:

Mrs. Erville Lewis

Mrs. Mabel Whitmore

Mrs. Anna Gibson

Gift of:

Mr. & Mrs. Cecil McDonald

Marvin & Frances Ellen Fallgatter

Dr. & Mrs. Albert Boles

A special gift was made to *Audubon Canyon Ranch* by Mrs. Erma Einstein in honor of the 90th birthday of Herbert L. Coggins

Gifts to Audubon Nature Training came from Mrs. Marie Whetzel and Aida Brenneis. A special contribution was made by the Oak Knoll Garden Club in appreciation of Vi & George Homem's bird slide program. A grant of \$500 came from the San Francisco Foundation for the continuance of the Nature Training program.

DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman.*



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Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

President	Joshua Barkin	Tilden Park Nature Area, Berkeley 94708	524-2495
Vice President	Mrs. Richard Johnson	1127 El Centro Ave. Oakland 94602	533-7118
Vice President	George Peyton, Jr.	4304 Adelaide, Oakland 94619	531-5588
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Recording Secretary	Mrs. Jane Dang	1292 Grizzly Peak Blvd., Berkeley 94708	848-0253
Corresponding Secretary	Mrs. Raymond Higgs	340 Esplanade Apt. 20, Pacifica 94044	355-6264
Director	Robert E. Conrath	1980 Washington St., San Francisco 94118	776-1418
Director	Mrs. Leonard Machlis	1871 Thousand Oaks Bl., Berkeley 94707	525-8473
Director	Mrs. Donald H. McLaughlin	1450 Hawthorne Ter., Berkeley 94708	848-0699
Editor (temporary)	Richard F. Johnson	1127 El Centro Ave., Oakland 94602	533-7118
Field Trips Chairman	Miss Patricia Triggs	2038-33rd Ave., San Francisco 94116	664-8502
Membership Chairman	Miss Aileen Pierson	810 Gonzalez Dr., San Francisco 94132	587-4163
Membership Secretary	Mrs. Zella Cushman	3156 Gough, San Francisco 94123	673-5310
Nature Training	Miss Phyllis Lindley	1749 Grove St., Berkeley 94709	549-1038
Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman	Dr. Albert Boles	854 Longridge Rd., Oakland 94610	451-6267
Wildlife Film Chairman	Mrs. Frances Ellen Fallgatter	406 El Cerrito, Piedmont 94611	655-9582
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Canyon Ranch Film Chmn.	Mrs. Bonnie Smith	555 Dewey Blvd., San Francisco 94116	681-7635

Bay Area Audubon Council (BAAC)

Delegates: Joshua Barkin, George Peyton, Jr., Mrs. Richard F. Johnson (addresses above)

Send address changes to Membership Secretary promptly; Post Office does not forward THE GULL. Monthly meetings second Thursday 7:30 p.m. Joint membership, Local & National \$10 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately \$2 per year.

High school & college student membership \$6 per year.

The Gull deadline is the first of the month for the following month.